Brief Note 5/24/79

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Dear Harold,

Ah, the thrill of Victory! If a picture is worth a thousand words then the look on Alex's face tells it all. We pulled off an upset in Homestead the likes of which has not been seen since 1934! Our committee put together a slate of 10 candidates - 5 for Council, 3 for School Director + 2 for Constable. When the votes were [redacted] counted, we had taken all five Council seats, 1 school board seat + 1 constable. Unfortunately, I was one of our losing school director candidates, although the votes were so close they're still checking. Unofficially, I won the Republican nomination + lost the Democratic by only 66 votes. As far as my race is concerned, everything is still up in the air. It may yet be discovered that an error was made in tallying the votes; also, we may contest the election because it was found that my lever was jammed on several of the voting machines. Plus, the woman who defeated me may end up declining the nomination because those who put her up to running were all defeated + she now has no support (There is also the possibility we may be able to "urge" her to decline the nomination because Alex taped a phone conversation he had with her when preparing for our latest hearing. During the conversation, she admitted that her nomination petition had been illegally circulated + then

altered after it was notarized but before it was submitted to the Election Dept. We couldn't use the tape during the hearing & because she perjured herself on the stand, we lost the case. Now that those who wanted her on the school board because they could control her are themselves out of power, the tape may come in handy in helping her to decide to drop out. (Will just have to wait and see how things go.) Regardless of the outcome of my race, any disappointment I have is far outweighed by the satisfaction I feel over what we accomplished in Homestead. With the 5 new council members, we now have 6 out of 9 council members "with us." Now, instead of not even being able to get a motion seconded, we will get it passed. We all knew this would be our last chance to turn Homestead around & so everyone worked like hell. Actually, we probably lost the 2 school board seats because we did put most of our money & effort into the council race - but it was worth it. I had some extra incentive to work because if we hadn't [redacted] taken advantage of this last opportunity & made a real good showing, Alex was going to take a job in Texas. He could be making a bundle of money with a corporation there because he has his J.D & is close to getting his CPA - the only thing holding him here was

politics. Now that we've accomplished more than even he thought possible, I know he's going to be around for awhile. Several people have already approached him about running for state legislator: If nothing else, I should at least get a job out of all this.

With the election over my life is slowly returning to normal, although I have alot of work to catch up on that I let slide during the campaign. I ended up last term with an A in my Local Govt Law course, although even an A doesn't indicate just how much I got out of the course - it was terrific. I ended up doing my research project on Corruption in Homestead's Personnel System. Needless to say, I had more than enough info to work with. Now that we've "taken over", I just may see some of the suggestions I made to solve some of the problems actually being implemented. I'm taking 2 courses during the summer - each is a concentrated 7 1/2 week session (the same amount of work in 1/2 the time) so that will keep me busy. To make a few extra bucks to pay for gas I'm also working 4 days a week at the "fun capitol of the world" - Kennywood Park. I will start school full time in Sept. & should be finished with my classes in April, then all I'll need for my Masters is a thesis or internship. I'm hoping to get some type of internship in Homestead -

I would like to use my internship to develop an Administrative Code for the borough because I believe that would go a long way toward solving some of the existing problems. At least now if I spent all the time & effort to develop a good Code there's a good possibility it would be accepted & adopted by Council. There's just so much that can be done now we don't know where to start. Between now & January, when they take office, we have one heck of alot of planning to do, and I am really looking forward to it.

I was really glad to hear in your last letter that things have improved so much for you financially & that you have finally been able to hire someone to help you get things organized. I just wish I could be of more help — don't ever hesitate to call on me - I can always find time to do something for you.

Well, I'd better get going because I still have a good bit of reading to do for tomorrows class. Take care & give my best to Lil.

Best,
Karen

P.S. Despite all the publicity about secret funds etc, Wecht won the Nomination for County Commissioner. O well, some people just need to be hit over the head before they'll open their eyes. Alot can happen between now and November.